Entry of Chinese forces in Arunachal Pradesh

1891. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been reports that Chinese forces entered 20 kilometre inside Indian territory at Sumdorong-Chu in Tawang district in Arunachal Pradesh and China still claims Arunachal Pradesh as their territory and recently denied a visa to an IAS officer from Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government have sent any Parliamentary Delegation to the State to check the position; and

(d) whether China has urged India not to bring differences to the fore till final border settlement is reached?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government are not aware of reports that Chinese forces entered 20 kilometres inside Indian territory at Sumdorong Chu in Tawang District in Arunachal Pradesh. China illegally claims approximately 90,000 square kilometres of Indian territory in the State of Arunachal Pradesh. Recently, China did not give a visa to an officer of the Arunachal Pradesh cadre of the Indian Administrative Service to visit China in May, 2007 on a study tour organised by the Department of Personnel and Training. Government of India have conveyed its regret and disappointment to the Chinese side on this occasion through the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi and the Indian Embassy in Beijing. Government have also reiterated their position that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) India and China are engaged in discussions to arrive at a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question. During the visit of the Chinese President to India in November 2006, both sides agreed that an early settlement of the boundary question will advance the basic interests of the two countries and that pending the resolution of the boundary question, both sides shall maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas in accordance with the agreements of 1993, 1996 and 2005.

Economic relations with Iran

1892. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US has asked India to diminish its economic relations with nuclear outlaw Iran and join the international community against Iran;

(b) if so, India's stand in this regard;

(c) what is the reason for Indian foreign policy shift which has been West Asia focussed till some time back; and